[*Translation*]

Cancellation of Trains

*295. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM PANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains cancelled during the last three years in the country;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to restore these trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). During the last 3 years as many as 61 pairs of slow moving passenger trains have been withdrawn permanently on account of poor patronisation or rationalisation of services on those sectors. These services are not proposed to be restored. A number of trains get cancelled due to accidents, breaches, bandhs etc. These cancellations are of a temporary nature and are restored on attaining normalcy.

However, 25 pairs of trains have been temporarily cancelled from January, 1992 in order to clear the extra rush of peak season freight traffic. These will be restored progressively in April, 1992. Another 23 pairs of trains have been cancelled due to difficult law and order situation in Punjab and Assam. These will be restored after the State Governments give clearance for their restoration.

[*English*]

Wagon for Southern Railway

*296. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of wagons, especially in the Southern Railway;

(b) whether the shortage of wagons has affected the movement of foodgrains to Kerala; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Temporary shortage of wagons is felt particularly for piecemeal loading during the peak season.

(b) No, Sir. Foodgrains move from Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to Kerala and these are moved as per programme, to meet the requirement of Public Distribution System.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Locomotives

*297 SHRI AMAL DATTA:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government imported electric locomotives several years ago;

(b) if so, the number, description, source and price thereof;

(c) if not, whether the proposals to import electric locomotives have been much delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the financial loss suffered as a result thereof;

(e) the object of buying electric locomotives and to what extent that has been fulfilled;

(f) whether any new contracts have been finalised in this regard recently; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent and source of funds allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 nos. received in 1988. 6 nos. 6000 HP 25 kV AC Bo-Bo-Bo Type Thyristor Locomotives from ASEA/Sweden for total FOB value of SEK 109,935,979 (including spares). 12 nos. 6000 HP 25 kV AC as 6 nos. Bo-Bo-Bo and 6 nos. Co-Co Type Thyristor Locomotives from Sumitomo/Japan for total FOB value of ¥ 5,278,370,600 (including spares).

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) These High Horse Power Electric Locomotives with the then latest thyristor technology, having higher speed capabilities were imported to evaluate their performance in actual service condition on Indian Railways and then to consider series manufacture of High Horse Power locomotives of the acceptable design in India. These locomotives are under estensive service trials to evaluate their performance covering various perameters.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Sick Sugar Factories

*298. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sugar factories in the country;

(b) the number of factories out of these which are sick;

(c) the total loss of revenue as a result thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to revive the sick sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) As on 15.2.1992, there were 405 installed sugar factories in the country.

(b) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1,35, companies which become sick have to be referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has reported that since 1987, 12 reference relating to sugar factories have been received in which appropriate action is being taken under the provisions of the aforesaid Act. Information regarding sick sugar factories in the Cooperative and Public Sectors is not maintained

(c) There is no direct loss of revenue to the Central Government as excise duty/ cess is levied and collected on all sugar produced by such factories.

(d) Sugar factores which have capacity less than 2500 TCD are to be given priority in licensing if they undertake expansion to the aforesaid minimum economic capacity, as per the licensing policy guidelines announced vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991.

Further, out of the 12 sugar mills whose references are pending before the BIFR, loans from the Sugar Development Fund